

THE SFI SMALL-SCALE



A NEW PATH FOR CERTIFYING SMALL INDIGENOUS FORESTLANDS IN CANADA

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) now has a new option for certifying small-scale forestlands owned or managed by First Nations and Métis communities — the SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, and Families. This innovative SFI module is designed to increase the supply of certified fibre from small forestlands and woodlots across Canada.

The SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, and Families is based on the requirements of the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. But it's scaled down to reflect the forest management objectives of small forestlands such as those owned or managed by many Indigenous communities. The module includes measures to broaden practices to address the conservation of biodiversity,

the use of forestry best management practices to protect water quality, soil productivity and reforestation, and the use of forest management and harvesting professionals.

Indigenous Peoples in North America and around the world have long relied on forests for cultural, spiritual and material needs. SFI supports Indigenous Peoples' interests in multiple ways. Nearly 4 million hectares of large-scale forestlands owned or managed by Indigenous Peoples in Canada are certified to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.

FLEXIBLE APPROACH — INDIVIDUAL OR MEMBER OF A GROUP

The module is designed for individual small-scale forests or groups of small-scale forests coming together to obtain sustainable forest management certification. The module allows Indigenous forestland owners and managers to benefit from the economies of scale afforded by working with a group of forest owners and managers of forest licences. Working as a group, members can benefit from improved forest management while sharing the cost of implementing the module and earning third-party certification.

Under the scope of the SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples and Families, an individual small forest is defined as no more than 20,000 hectares in total forest growing area. This size-cap can be exceeded when recreation, conservation or traditional use areas are included.

Examples of small-scale forests eligible for the module include forestlands owned or managed by First Nations or Métis communities or Crown forest licensed to Indigenous communities. Large forestlands owned or managed by First Nations and Métis communities seeking certification to SFI would be expected to certify to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.

SMALL-SCALE FOREST-MANAGEMENT MODULE REQUIREMENTS

A Forest Management Plan

The area under the module must be covered by a forest management plan. This management plan will address, among other items, the long-term sustainable harvest level and will include measures to avoid conversion to non-forest use. The plan should be appropriate to the size of the managed forest, the forest management objectives and the scale and intensity of management.

Member Commitment

A First Nation or Métis community that is a member of the certification organization must sign a commitment to implement and maintain the module requirements applicable to the forestlands under the module.

Annual Monitoring Program

The module requires an annual monitoring program to ensure conformance with the requirements of the module. The monitoring program focuses on, among other items, commercial harvesting operations, reforestation, protection of biological diversity and water quality, and the construction of roads and trails.

Independent Certification

To count as certified forest content, fibre from forestlands under the module must be third-party certified by a certification body accredited by the Standards Council of Canada or the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board.

GETTING STARTED

The SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples and Families is ready for implementation. To learn more, contact:

Gregor Macintosh, Senior Director Standards
gregor.macintosh@forests.org or 778-351-3358.

Paul Robitaille, Senior Manager, Indigenous and Youth Relations, paul.robitaille@forests.org or 613-288-5856.

ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE® INC. (SFI)

At SFI we believe that sustainable forests are critical to our collective future. As an independent, non-profit organization, we collaborate with the forest sector, brand owners, conservation groups, resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, governments, and universities to provide solutions to local and global sustainability challenges.

Learn more: forests.org.

SFI HAS PROUDLY PARTNERED
WITH AND INVESTED IN OVER
**120 INDIGENOUS
GROUPS**
ACROSS CANADA
AND THE U.S.



BETTER CHOICES FOR THE PLANET

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